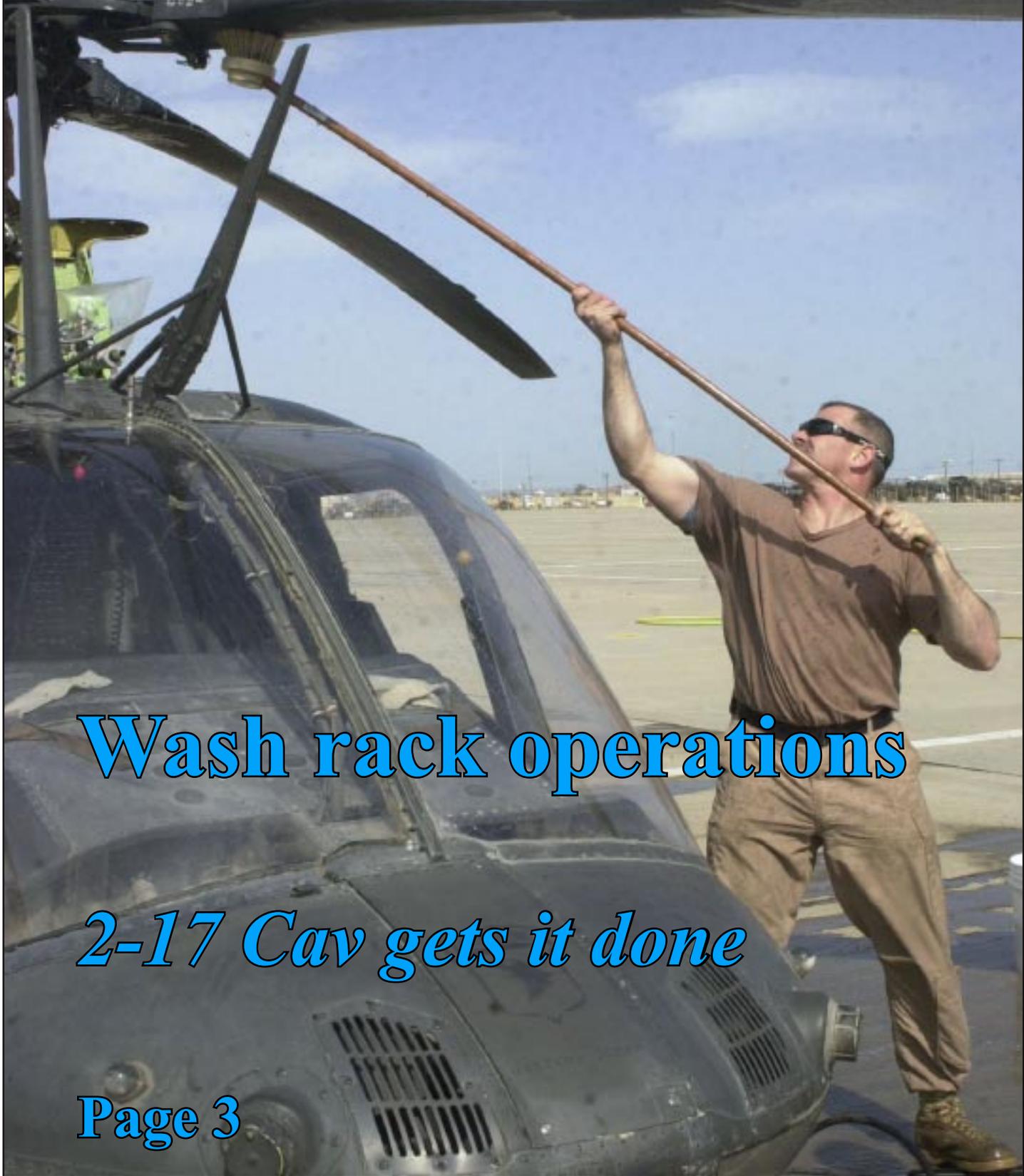


# IRAQI DESTINY

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*2-17 Cav gets it done*

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Sgt. Robert Woodward

Hundreds of Iraqis take an oath denouncing the Ba'ath party and dedicate themselves to helping make Iraq a safe place for democracy.

## *Iraqis denounce Ba'ath party en masse*

by Sgt. Jeremy Heckler  
3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division

**T**housands of Iraqis dedicated their name to the cause of a new future for Iraq Jan. 26 when former Iraqi army officers gathered together to denounce violence and their former allegiance to the Ba'ath party.

The ceremony was the largest held in Ninevah Province as over 2,000 Ba'ath Party members came to sign a small paper and give their pledge to foster a free, safe and democratic environment in

Iraq. The event is the first of two involving former Ba'ath Party and Iraqi Army members. A ceremony for former non-commissioned officers is scheduled for Jan. 27.

The events help form a new, integrated society with advantages for more Iraqis, according to Lt. Col. Fred Humphrey, commander, 431<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.

"This is a step forward for the Iraqis and gives the former Ba'athists the ability to integrate into society," said Humphrey.

Members of the Ba'ath Party couldn't hold a civil service job of any kind or collect a pension for their service to Iraq,

said Humphrey. While signing the agreement doesn't guarantee the opportunity to regain those rights, it is a step in the right direction in a public forum.

"With the Ba'ath disavowment, many may in the future have an opportunity for jobs with the government or with public office," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Strauss Scantlin, 431<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs Bn. "It is no guarantee, but it can open doors."

"We want to cooperate and help our people," said Brigadier Gen. (Ret.) Safawi Mumtaz, formerly of the Iraqi Army, and one of the event's organizers. He said

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## 2-17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry readies steeds for journey to Fort Campbell

by Pfc. Thomas Day  
40th Pad

**C**AMP DOHA, Kuwait -- The 2-17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, an aerial reconnaissance asset of the 101<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment and the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault), is now at Camp Doha, Kuwait, preparing for redeployment.

The unit has been in theatre since late February of 2003.

Fifteen of 2-17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry's 24 Kiowa helicopters were carried into theatre for the deployment. They have flown more than 12,000 flight hours during Operation Iraqi Freedom, an average of more than 800 flight hours an aircraft just this past year. The marathon for the 2-17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry's pilots and crews is nearly finished, but first the aircrafts need to be washed to pass U.S. Customs inspections.

"For the most part for these aircrafts, this is the first time they've seen water," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott A. Moyers of Northfield, N.H. "They're still going to need washing when we get back. You could never get all the desert out of these aircrafts."

Sand, dirt and grease have accumulated in nearly all of the unit's aircraft, especially in the hard to reach places. Wednesday the pilots and crew took about five hours to wash the aircraft piece-by-piece before a 3 P.M. inspection. The unit is scheduled to fly back to Fort Campbell early next month.



Pfc. Thomas Day

(Top) Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tom Slifko of Hawley, Pa., 2-17th Cavalry Regiment, washes his Kiowa helicopter before U.S. Customs inspections. (Above) Chief Warrant Officer 3 Curtis Phipps of Henrietta, Texas, 2-17th Cavalry Regiment, scrubs his Kiowa helicopter before U.S. Customs inspections.



Spc. Joshua Hutcheson

Abdul-Salam Al-Tumaily, an English teacher at the teachers' training facility, thanks the soldiers of the 101st Corps Support Group for the funding to repair the facility. The CSG gave approximately \$50,000 to local contractors who repaired the ceilings, floors, walls, plumbing and electricity in two months. The training facility will be used to keep teachers abreast of current teaching methods.

## 101<sup>st</sup> CSG refurbishes teaching facility

by Spc. Joshua Hutcheson  
101st Abn. Div. (AAst.) PAO

The leaders of the 101<sup>st</sup> Corps Support Group were among the invited guests at a ribbon cutting ceremony this week in the city of Mosul, for a teachers' training facility that they helped refurbish.

The teachers' training facility is a place where teachers will be trained up in their respective fields and taught the most up to date techniques in teaching children.

"Training sessions will not be American curriculum, just modern teaching methods," said Col. Gerald Dolinish, commander, 101<sup>st</sup> CSG. "This refurbishing is about the children of Iraq, children have no political parties, they just have needs."

Non-Governmental Organizations will send people to the facility to instruct the teachers who attend. A class of 941 teachers is scheduled to begin sessions Feb. 2, and another 400 will attend the facility Feb. 12.

Dolinish believes that teachers who are experts in their fields of learning will in turn be able to better educate the children at school.

Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus, division commander, put Dolinish in charge of working with the Ninevah Province Department of Education to repair and refurbish as many of the schools and

learning institutions in the province as he and his soldiers could. So far the 101<sup>st</sup> CSG has spent \$3 million on projects connected to the department of education. They have rebuilt and repaired 159 schools in the province, said Lt. Col. Sherrie Bosley, operations officer, 101<sup>st</sup> CSG.

"It has been my pleasure to try and help the schools and children of Ninevah," Dolinish said. "We have taken the children into our hearts."

Approximately \$50,000, funded by the 101<sup>st</sup> CSG, was used to repair and refurbish the training facility, Bosley said.

The building was abandoned when the 101<sup>st</sup> soldiers first saw it. The roof, walls, and floor all had to be redone. The majority of the building had to be replastered, all the doors and windows had to be replaced and the water and plumbing reconnected. The walls had to be painted and a lot of electricity work had to be done, Bosley said.

"We're not just restoring (the facility), we're making it better than it was," she said.

Hiring local contractors, who in turn hired local workers, the project was completed in two months and helped the economy.

"We're putting a lot of people back to work through the refurbishing program," Bosley said.

So far the 101<sup>st</sup> has helped to repair and rebuild more than 550 schools across the province, Bosley said.

The 101<sup>st</sup> continues to work with the citizens and leaders of Iraq to make it a safe, prosperous, and democratic nation.

# 101<sup>st</sup> issues strict war trophy and souvenir guidance

by Pfc. Thomas Day  
40<sup>th</sup> PAD

**C**AMP DOHA, Kuwait -- OPORD 20-04, OPERATION EAGLE VICTORY, FRAGO 230, is anything but nebulous in providing definitions for what is and what isn't permissible to bring home.

"GENERAL RULES OF THUMB: If it is a necessary component for a weapon to operate, it is illegal. If it is or was alive, it is illegal. NO BAYONETS!!!"

Of course, the frago goes into a bit more detail. All weapons (grenades, knives), military equipment not designed to be issued to an individual (generators, radars, motor vehicles), household items collected from private homes, dirt, plants and animals are strictly prohibited from being transported back to the United States.

Enemy property, such as helmets, uniforms and unit patches, canteens, compasses, load bearing equipment, military training manuals, books, and "other items that clearly pose no safety or health risk" are permissible.

"It's crucial that soldiers and commanders reference both the applicable division fragos and the customs guidance so they do not find themselves in breach once they get to Kuwait," said Capt. Jerry Duggan of Overland Park, Kan., 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. "For instance, the division frago allows soldiers to take Iraqi flags policed up from the battlefield.

Customs considers this state property of Iraq and therefore will not allow them to be taken out of the country."

The frago has been in effect since the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Soldiers and commanders should also take heed in recent changes to the frago. Scopes are no longer on the banned list of items to take home. Silverware, knives, jewelry and rugs, if purchased from the local economy, are also permissible. Bayonets are still prohibited no matter how the weapon was obtained.

Soldiers looking for a way to circumvent the war trophy and souvenir policies will have a tough time finding success.

"Everything that's in a quadcon will be inspected before leaving theatre," Duggan warned. "The U.S. Postal Service also inspects everything that comes into the U.S."

## DENOUNCE, from page 2

the biggest difficulty he faced in organizing the event was finding a building big enough to house it.

"We began work with Iraqis through the anti-corruption task force," said Scantlin.

Scantlin said the event was organized solely by Iraqis, but they provided support to help them make it possible.

Soldiers from the battalion manned desks and logged the names of each former party member who came forward and signed the oath. The paperwork will be forwarded to leaders in Baghdad.

What began with a few leaders grew to great masses of people leading away from the assembly hall outside the academy and onto the road.

Groups of 200 Iraqis went into the hall and signed the agreement to disavow party affiliation and agree to cooperate fully with the Coalition Provisional Authority and building a new Iraqi government.

"The people came here to denounce violence and work for the reconstruction of a new Iraq," said Mumtiz. "All of them are committed to rejecting violence and terrorism."



Sgt. Robert Woodward

Ba'athists were brought into the academy in large groups and filed into an auditorium where they signed the denunciation and took the oath, pledging themselves to help make a better Iraq.

After the room filled, the doors were closed and Major Gen. David H. Petraeus, commanding general, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) spoke to those gathered and congratulated them on their decision.

"The statements you make here are of substantial importance," said Petraeus. "You become part of the solution instead of part of the problem."

Petraeus said there is no limit to what Iraqis and Americans can achieve when they work together.

"The goal is to achieve unity in an Iraq that provides prosperity for all," said Petraeus.

Mumtiz said he hoped the event would set a new path for Iraq.

"I am very happy to be here to throw out the bad history and start a new history for Iraq," said Mumtiz.